



DOI Revised WRAC Resolution on Upper Chain of Lakes EIS

DRAFT Revised WRAC Resolution, requesting that the Governing Board, direct Staff to:

1. Work in conjunction with USACE, FFWCC, USFWS, USEPA, FLDEP, and other interested parties to ensure that the ongoing Kissimmee Upper Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement is of sufficient scope to develop a Kissimmee Upper Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan. Ensure that to the extent of the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement, it develops alternative management scenarios that address the three main stressors that cause environmental harm to the lakes, specifically, restricted lake regulation schedules, aquatic plant control management strategies, and nutrient pollution. Alternatives based on drawdowns should consider incorporating adaptive protocols that consider long range weather forecasts and downstream conditions in the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, the Estuaries, and the Everglades, to provide windows of opportunity for lake drawdowns that optimize the beneficial uses of water, optimize opportunities for the restoration of threatened and endangered species, and minimize adverse effects of drawdowns; and
2. Develop a Kissimmee Upper Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan that builds on the May 1997 Draft Management Plan for the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes prepared by the South Florida Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, by incorporating information from the Upper Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement.
3. Request that the USACE and state agencies consider issuing appropriate permits to allow implementation of the lake drawdown adaptive protocols or other recommended management actions as proposed in the Kissimmee Upper Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan and request that state funding be secured for implementation; and
4. Request that *any* state funding for activities recommended by the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement, associated with the purpose of Lake drawdowns, be consistent with the adaptive protocols proposed in the Kissimmee Upper Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan; and
4. Work with the interested parties to facilitate plans for the Lake Toho Drawdown and ensure the appropriate monitoring plans and research are carefully conducted so that results can be used in the development of the Kissimmee Upper Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan.

2/26/03